MYSTERY

TALES OF *HORROR* AND SUSPENSE!

mister

MYSTERY

SEPT '52

10¢

No.7

KILL THESE HAIR-DESTROYING GERMS WITH WARD'S FORMULA

NOTHING, ***Absolutely nothing known to Science can do more to***

SAVE YOUR HAIR

Beware of your itchy scalp, hair loss, dandruff, head scales, unpleasant head odors! Nature may be warning you of approaching baldness. Heed Nature's warning! Treat your scalp to scientifically prepared Ward's Formula.

Millions of trouble-breeding bacteria, living on your sick scalp (see above) are killed on contact. Ward's Formula kills not one, but *all four* types of these destructive scalp germs now recognized by many medical authorities as a significant cause of baldness. Kill these germs—don't risk letting them kill your hair growth.

ENJOY THESE 5 BENEFITS IMMEDIATELY

1. Kills these 4 types of germs that retard normal hair growth—*on contact*
2. Removes ugly infectious dandruff—*fast*
3. Brings hair-nourishing blood to scalp—*quickly*
4. Stops annoying scalp itch and burn—*instantly*
5. Starts wonderful self-massaging action—*within 3 seconds*

Once you're bald, that's *it*, friends! There's nothing you can do. Your hair is gone forever. So are your chances of getting it back. But Ward's Formula, used as directed, keeps your sick scalp free of itchy dandruff, seborrhea, and stops the hair loss they cause. Almost at once your hair looks thicker, more attractive and alive.

We don't ask you to believe *us*. Thousands of men and women—first skeptical just as you are—have *proved* what we say. Read *their* grateful letters. Study the guarantee—it's *better* than a free trial! Then try Ward's Formula at *our* risk. Use it for only 10 short days. You must enjoy *all* the benefits we claim—or we return not only the price you pay—but DOUBLE YOUR MONEY BACK. You be the judge! ©Ward Laboratories Inc., 1430 Broadway, N.Y. 18, N.Y.

TO SAVE YOUR HAIR ACT NOW
Send coupon today for 10-day offer. Send No Money

I must admit I didn't have much faith in it, but I hadn't been using Ward's one week before I could see it was helping me. I could feel my hair getting thicker.
E. K., Cleveland, Ohio

Out of all the Hair Experts I went to, I've gotten the most help from one bottle of Ward's Formula.
C. La M., Philadelphia, Pa.

After using Ward's for only 12 days, my hair has stopped falling out.
R. W. C., Cicero, Ill.

I am tickled to death with the results. In just two weeks' time—no dandruff! *W. T. W., Pardee, Cal.*

I feel encouraged to say that the infuriating scalp itch which has bothered me for 5 years is now gone.
J. M. K., Columbus, Ohio

Guarantee

This written guarantee entitles you not only to return of price paid for Ward's Formula, but Double Your Money Back unless you actually SEE, FEEL and ENJOY all benefits herein claimed in only ten days. The test is at our risk. All you do is return unused portion or the empty bottle unless completely satisfied.

SEAL

Ward Laboratories, Inc.

ACT TODAY or YOU MAY BE TOO LATE!

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1430 Broadway, Dept. 6109-W New York 18, N.Y.

Rush Ward's Formula to me at once. I will pay postman two dollars plus postage. I must be completely satisfied within 10 days, or you GUARANTEE refund of DOUBLE MY MONEY BACK upon return of bottle and unused portion.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ Zone _____ State _____

☐ Check here if you enclose $2.00 with order, and we will pay postage. Same refund offer holds, of course. *APO, FPO, Canada & Foreign add 30¢ no CODs.*

DOUBLE YOUR MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

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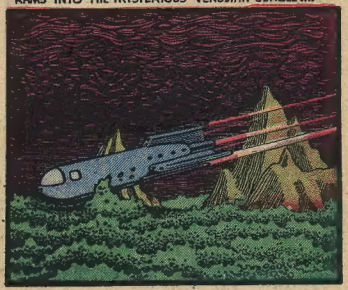
THE BRAIN-BATS OF VENUS

THERE ARE SOME PLANETS ON WHICH MAN SHOULD NEVER SET FOOT! TWO EARTHMEN FOUND THAT OUT --- TOO LATE!

B.W.

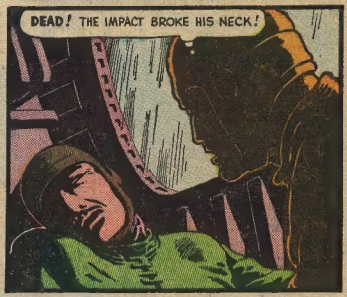
YOUR SPACESHIP IS OUT OF CONTROL OVER VENUS, ROD CRENSHAW! WITHIN A FEW MINUTES YOU AND YOUR PILOT PARTNER, REESE BITNER, WILL PROBABLY BE DEAD ON THE UNCHARTED PLANET YOU HAVE COME TO EXPLORE!

THE SHIP SCREAMS DOWN THRU THE THICK CLOUDS, AND RAMS INTO THE MYSTERIOUS VENUSIAN JUNGLE!...

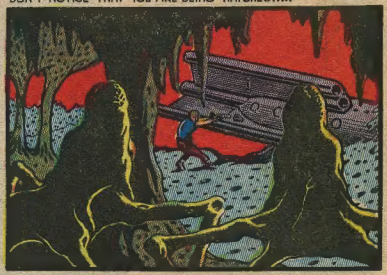


YOU COME OUT OF YOUR UNCONSCIOUSNESS. ALL IS DEATHLY STILL! BUT DEATH HASN'T CAUGHT UP WITH YOU, CRENSHAW,---NOT YET! YOU STARE OUTSIDE....

THEN YOU LOOK DOWN,--AND YOU REALIZE THAT YOUR PARTNER IS PAST HEARING YOUR REMARKS!...

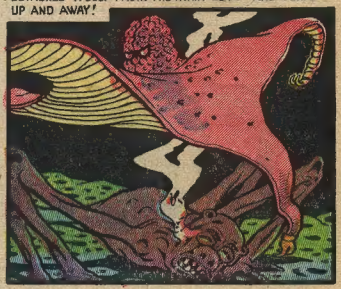


YOU VENTURE OUTSIDE AND FIND THE CRAFT HASN'T SERIOUSLY BEEN DAMAGED IN THE CRASH LANDING. AS YOU SET ABOUT REPAIRING THE FAULTY RUDDER THAT BROUGHT YOU DOWN, YOU DON'T NOTICE THAT YOU ARE BEING WATCHED!....

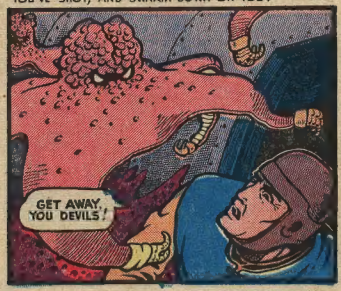


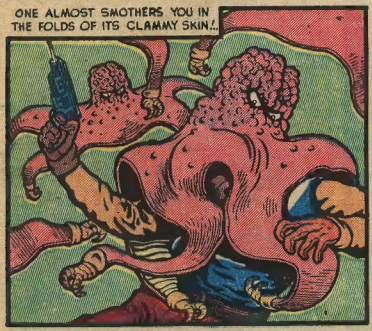
AS YOU FINISH YOUR JOB, STRANGE CREATURES CLOSE IN ON YOU!

YOU SHOOT THE NEAREST ONE! ITS UPPER PAIR OF EYES, SET IN A LUMP THAT RESEMBLES A BRAIN, DETACHES ITSELF FROM THE MAIN BODY AND FLAPS UP AND AWAY!



THE WEIRD ENTITIES KEEP COMING AT YOU! YOU HAVE TO FIRE FAST!


YOU MAKE FOR THE OPEN AIRLOCK DOOR, BUT THE BAT-LIKE BRAIN THINGS FLUTTER UP FROM THE BODIES YOU'VE SHOT, AND SWARM DOWN ON YOU!
GET AWAY, YOU DEVILS!


ONE ALMOST SMOTHERS YOU IN THE FOLDS OF ITS CLAMMY SKIN!

...BUT YOU MANAGE TO TEAR IT LOOSE, LEAP INSIDE AND CLOSE THE DOOR!
SAFE AT LAST!

BUT ARE YOU SAFE, CRENSHAW? JUST LOOK BEHIND YOU!

YES -- IT'S BITNER, YOUR DEAD PARTNER,-- REVIVED LIKE A ZOMBIE BY THE GREAT MENTAL POWER OF THE BRAIN-BAT THAT HIS SLIPPED IN TO TAKE OVER HIS BRAIN AND BODY!
NO!

YOU HARDLY RECOGNIZE THE EERIE VOICE THAT COMES FROM BITNER'S DEATH-COLD LIPS!...

DROP YOUR GUN! STAND BACK FROM THE DOOR WHILE I OPEN IT!

BUT REESE! MORE OF THOSE THINGS WILL GET IN!

OF COURSE! YOU ARE SPEAKING TO ONE OF THEM -- NOT TO REESE! I NOW HAVE GREATER MENTAL AND PHYSICAL FACULTIES BY REVIVING AND TAKING OVER HIS MIND AND BODY! WE WILL RETURN TO YOUR PLANET WITH A CARGO OF OUR KIND! THEN WE CAN ATTACH OURSELVES TO OTHERS OF YOUR KIND -- A GREAT IMPROVEMENT OVER LIVING ATTACHED TO STUPID VENUSIAN CREATURES! AND AFTER I OPEN THE DOOR, YOU WILL BECOME ONE OF US!

YOU WATCH IN HORROR AS THE BRAIN-BATS FLAP INSIDE!....

IN THE CONFUSION YOU DIVE FOR THE GUN YOU'VE DROPPED ON THE FLOOR -- THEN RACE TO THE SHIP'S STERN! THE BRAIN-BATS PURSUE YOU! BITNER IS AFRAID TO FIRE LEST HE HIT THE BRAIN-BATS.....

YOU BEAT THEM OFF, LEAP INSIDE A FOOD STORAGE COMPARTMENT AND SLAM THE DOOR ON THEM!

THAT WAS A STUPID MOVE, CRENSHAW! YOU'LL DIE IN THERE! THEN I'LL TEAR THIS DOOR DOWN, AND ONE OF US WILL TAKE OVER YOUR BODY! IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR YOU TO COME OUT NOW AND JOIN US!

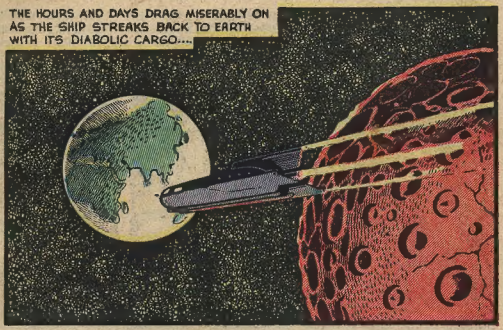
YOU'LL HAVE TO WAIT! I'LL NOT WILLINGLY BECOME A WALKING DEAD MAN!

SOON YOU HEAR AND FEEL THE ROAR OF ROCKETS! YOU BRACE YOURSELF FOR THE TAKE-OFF SHOCK!
WE'RE BLASTING FREE!

BITNER IS AT THE CONTROLS NOW! THIS COULD BE MY CHANCE TO OPEN THE DOOR A CRACK AND START MOWING DOWN THOSE DEVILS!

IT WON'T BUDGE! THAT MEANS HE'S BARRED THE DOOR ON THE OUTSIDE!

TRAPPED! AND IT'LL BE DAYS BEFORE WE GET BACK TO EARTH! I'VE GOT TO HOLD OUT -- OR ELSE!


THE HOURS AND DAYS DRAG MISERABLY ON AS THE SHIP STREAKS BACK TO EARTH WITH ITS DIABOLIC CARGO...

MEANWHILE, THERE'S PLENTY TO EAT IN THE FOOD TINS-- BUT NO WATER!
I - I CAN'T HOLD ON-- MUCH LONGER--- WITHOUT-- WATER---

IT HASN'T OCCURRED TO YOU UNTIL THAT MOMENT THAT ONE OF THOSE CONDUITS RIGGED ALONG THE WALL CARRIES WATER! FEVERISHLY YOU BLAST AT IT WITH YOUR GUN....

FINALLY IT SPRINGS A LEAK, AND YOU GULP THE TINY STREAM OF PRECIOUS LIQUID!

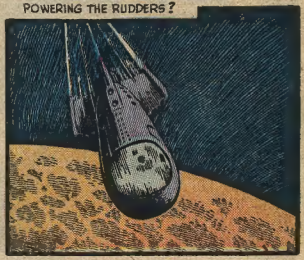
MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY REFRESHED, YOU SUDDENLY REALIZE THAT THERE IS A WAY TO THWART THE BRAIN-BATS!

YOU ARE SO WEAKENED FROM YOUR SEASON WITHOUT WATER THAT YOU FALL ASLEEP. WHEN YOU WAKE UP, YOU SEE THRU THE LITTLE PORTHOLE THAT THE SHIP IS ENTERING EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE SHELL!....

HURRIEDLY YOU TRAIN YOUR GUN ON THE OTHER CONDUIT LINE....

BUT PERHAPS IT ISN'T AS SIMPLE AS YOU THOUGHT. THE GUN FUEL IS RUNNING LOW, AND THE FLAME BITES VERY SLOWLY INTO THE HEAVY PIPE....

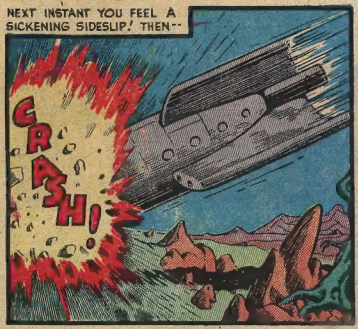
YOU LOOK OUT TO SEE THAT EARTH'S SURFACE IS ONLY ABOUT 200 MILES AWAY! IS THERE ENOUGH TIME LEFT TO CUT THAT CONDUIT AND THE ELECTRIC LINE INSIDE IT THAT RUNS BACK TO THE MOTORS POWERING THE RUDDERS?



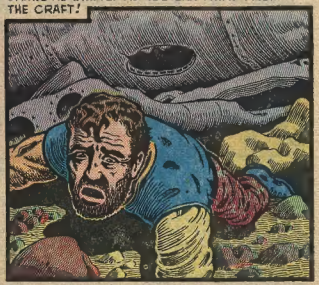
LITTLE BY LITTLE THE WANING GUN FLAME MELTS THE PIPE -- THEN BORES INTO THE CABLE, AND--

BY NOW THE SHIP HAS ALREADY SMOOTHED OUT FOR A LANDING! PERHAPS IT'S TOO LATE TO WRECK IT !...

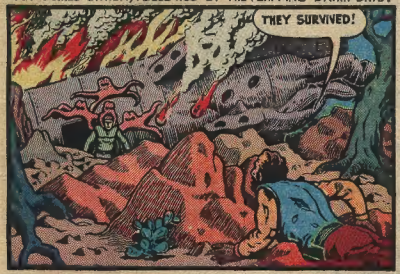
NEXT INSTANT YOU FEEL A SICKENING SIDESLIP! THEN--



OBLIVIOUS TO YOUR CUTS AND BRUISES, YOU SCRAMBLE THRU YOUR BROKEN PORTHOLE AND CRAWL AS SWIFTLY AS YOU CAN AWAY FROM THE CRAFT!



YOU TURN TO SEE FLAMES BELCHING FROM IT! THIS, YOU THINK TRIUMPHANTLY, IS THE FIERY COFFIN OF THE BRAINBATS! BUT-- TO YOUR HORROR-- YOU SEE THE SHIP'S DOOR OPEN! OUT COMES BITNER, FOLLOWED BY THE FLAPPING BRAIN-BATS!



THEY COME TOWARD YOU! YOU LIE AS THOUGH COLLAPSED--THEN WHIP UP YOUR GUN, AND WITH PRACTICALLY THE LAST GOOD SPURT OF FLAME LEFT IN IT, BLAST THE BRAIN-BAT ATOP BITNER'S HEAD!...

AT ALMOST THE SAME MOMENT THE SHIP EXPLODES!

WHEN YOUR SENSES BEGIN TO CLEAR, YOU SOMEHOW FIND YOURSELF HOPING THAT SOME OF THE BRAIN-BATS ESCAPED THE EXPLOSION!...

THEN COMES THE REALIZATION THAT YOU, ROD CRENSHAW, DIED IN THE BLAST--AND THAT THE THOUGHTS NOW COURSING THRU YOUR REVIVED BRAIN ARE THOSE OF A BRAIN-BAT THAT ESCAPED THE BLAST TO MAKE OF YOU --A **ZOMBIE!**

THE END

LAST CHANCE AT THIS LOW PRICE!

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PRECISION JEWELED

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DATE CHANGES EVERY DAY *Automatically*

10-DAY FREE TRIAL!

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A sensational bargain! Don't miss it — or you may be too late! You have always wanted a watch with these expensive features. Now you can have them AT A PRICE YOU CAN AFFORD! This accurate, precision-made Window Calendar Chronograph is ideal for the members of our Armed Services, for sportsmen, doctors, photographers, engineers, technicians, executives, etc. And as for gifts . . . it's A PERFECT GIFT FOR EVERY OCCASION, such as Graduation, Birthday, Anniversary, Holiday, etc. SEND NO MONEY! Simply mail coupon below for 10-Day FREE TRIAL. Do it now, before supply is exhausted!

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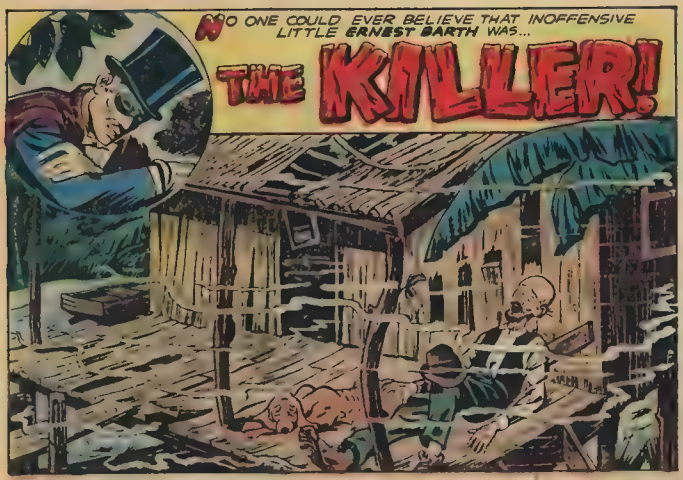
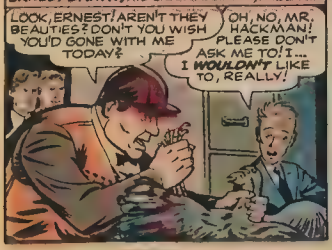
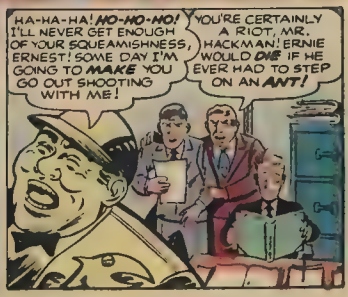


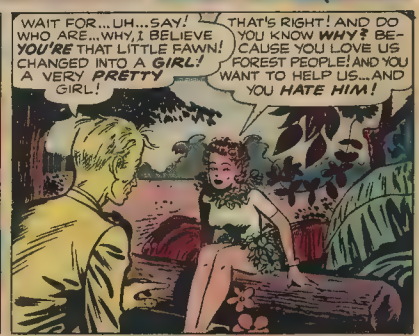
JOHN HACKMAN WAS A BIG MAN, IN PHYSIQUE AND INFLUENCE. HE OWNED A GREAT CYPRESS SWAMP, A CYPRESS MILL AND LUMBER YARD, AND HE OWNED THOUSANDS OF ACRES WHERE HE COULD HUNT AT WILL...

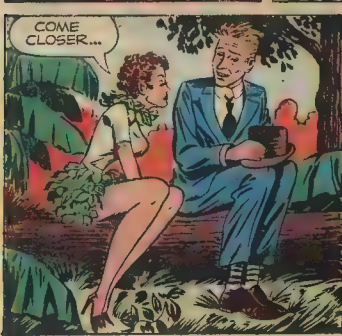
MOST OF ALL, HACKMAN OWNED HIS EMPLOYEES, AND OF ALL EMPLOYEES, HE OWNED ERNEST BARTH, HIS BOOKKEEPER, MOST...





"ERNEST BARTH HAD LIVED HIS LIFE IN THE CYPRESS COUNTRY, AND HE LOVED THE WILD THINGS BECAUSE HE UNDERSTOOD THEM BETTER THAN PEOPLE! IN THE LONG TWILIGHT, AFTER WORK..."





THE ELFIN KISS WAS LIKE THE TOUCH OF A FAIRY'S WAND, FOR IT BROUGHT THE WHOLE WOODS TO LIFE BEFORE ERNEST BARTH'S EYES...

HE COMES HERE AND WRECKS OUR LIVES! HE KILLS US AND TAKES OUR BODIES AWAY AND WE NEVER SEE OUR LOVED ONES AGAIN! IF YOU LOVE US, AS YOU HAVE OFTEN SAID, YOU COULD DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!

I WILL DO SOMETHING! I'LL KILL HIM...THAT'S WHAT I'LL DO!

"WHEN THE SPELL...OR CALL IT WHAT YOU WILL... LEFT ERNEST BARTH, HE WAS HORRIFIED TO FIND HIMSELF GOING UP THE DRIVEWAY TO HACKMAN'S HOUSE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT!"

WHAT AM I DOING? HERE WITH THIS...THIS KNIFE! I WAS GOING TO KILL JOHN HACKMAN!

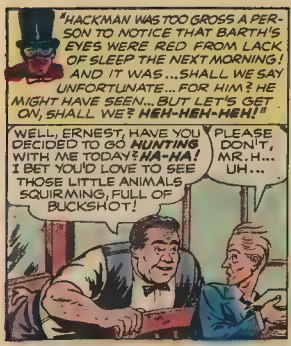
ERNEST BARTH RAN HOME AND CLIMBED INTO BED. BUT NO SLEEP CAME TO HIM THAT NIGHT...

NO! NO, I DIDN'T! BUT... I CANNOT MURDER JOHN HACKMAN! NO, NOT EVEN HIM!

YOU FAILED US! YOU FAILED US! YOU FAILED US

THEN BRING HIM TO US! BRING HIM TO US!

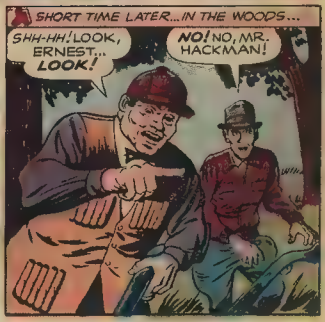
YES... YES...I WILL TAKE HIM!

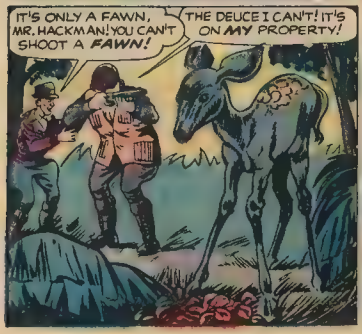

"HACKMAN WAS TOO GROSS A PERSON TO NOTICE THAT BARTH'S EYES WERE RED FROM LACK OF SLEEP THE NEXT MORNING! AND IT WAS...SHALL WE SAY UNFORTUNATE...FOR HIM? HE MIGHT HAVE SEEN...BUT LET'S GET ON, SHALL WE? HEH-HEH-HEH!"
WELL, ERNEST, HAVE YOU DECIDED TO GO HUNTING WITH ME TODAY? HA-HA! I BET YOU'D LOVE TO SEE THOSE LITTLE ANIMALS SQUIRMING, FULL OF BUCKSHOT!
PLEASE DON'T, MR. H... UH...

YES...I WILL TAKE HACKMAN TO YOU! THAT'S WHAT I PROMISED!

I...I THINK I WILL TAKE YOU UP ON THE OFFER, MR. HACKMAN! I THINK I WILL GO HUNTING WITH YOU!
BY THUNDER! I DIDN'T THINK YOU HAD THE NERVE!

"AND SO THAT VERY AFTERNOON, THE TWO STARTED FOR THE WOODS... HACKMAN TO HUNT AND ERNEST TO... HEH-HEH...TRAP, YOU MIGHT SAY!"


SHORT TIME LATER...IN THE WOODS...
SHH-HH! LOOK, ERNEST... LOOK!
NO! NO, MR. HACKMAN!


IT'S ONLY A FAWN, MR. HACKMAN! YOU CAN'T SHOOT A FAWN!
THE DEUCE I CAN'T! IT'S ON MY PROPERTY!

YES, I THOUGHT IT WAS YOU! YOU SEE, I BROUGHT HIM TO YOU! BUT LOOK OUT! HE IS TRYING TO KILL YOU!
HEE-HEE! LET HIM TRY!

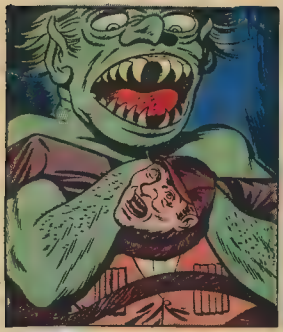
LIFT ME INTO YOUR ARMS!
BUT...BUT YOU DON'T KNOW HACKMAN! HE WILL FIRE! HE REALLY WILL!

ERNEST, DON'T THINK YOU'LL GET AWAY WITH THAT! PUT THAT FAWN DOWN, SO I CAN TAKE A SHOT AT IT!

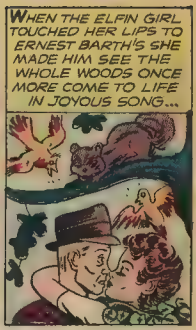
ALL RIGHT, BARTH, YOU ASKED FOR IT! DROP THAT ANIMAL OR I'LL LET YOU HAVE IT, TOO!
NO, MR. HACKMAN! PLEASE DON'T SHOOT HER!

DON'T WORRY, ERNEST! JUST LOOK WHAT IS HAPPENING!

EEE-AHH! HELP! HELP! ERNEST, THIS THING'S GOT ME!
SEE? HE GUARDS THE FOREST GATE, ERNEST!

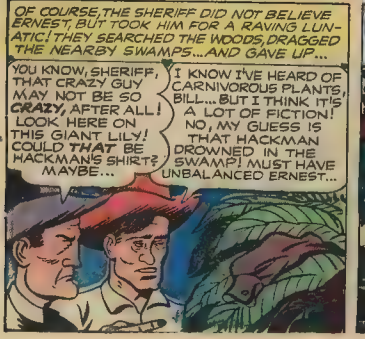


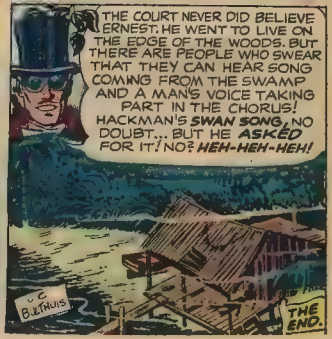
NOW DO YOU SEE, ERNEST? YOU HAVE SAVED US FROM HIM! NOW WE ARE FREE!
YES! WE ARE ALL FREE NOW!


WHEN THE ELFIN GIRL TOUCHED HER LIPS TO ERNEST BARTH'S SHE MADE HIM SEE THE WHOLE WOODS ONCE MORE COME TO LIFE IN JOYOUS SONG...

"THE CELEBRATION WENT ON FOR DAYS, THEN SUDDENLY THE WOODS, PEOPLE STARTED WITH ALARM..."
WHERE ARE YOU ALL GOING? I'M BEING LEFT ALL ALONE HERE!

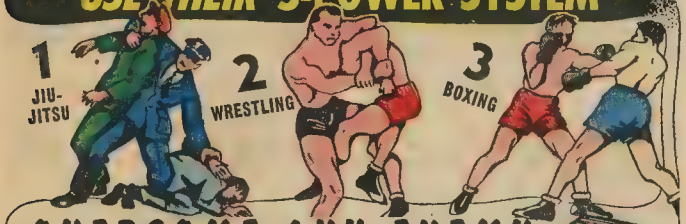
HERE! HERE'S ERNEST BARTH! WHERE'S MR. HACKMAN, BARTH?
THE GIANT SWALLOWED HIM! AND...TAKE ME IN, SHERIFF! I'M REALLY THE ONE WHO KILLED HIM! I KILLED HIM, SHERIFF! I KILLED HIM! BECAUSE I TURNED HIM OVER TO THE GIANT!


OF COURSE, THE SHERIFF DID NOT BELIEVE ERNEST, BUT TOOK HIM FOR A RAVING LUNATIC! THEY SEARCHED THE WOODS, DRAGGED THE NEARBY SWAMPS...AND GAVE UP...
YOU KNOW, SHERIFF, THAT CRAZY GUY MAY NOT BE SO CRAZY, AFTER ALL! LOOK HERE ON THIS GIANT LILY! COULD THAT BE HACKMAN'S SHIRT? MAYBE...
I KNOW I'VE HEARD OF CARNIVOROUS PLANTS, BILL...BUT I THINK IT'S A LOT OF FICTION! NO, MY GUESS IS THAT HACKMAN DROWNED IN THE SWAMP! MUST HAVE UNBALANCED ERNEST...


THE COURT NEVER DID BELIEVE ERNEST. HE WENT TO LIVE ON THE EDGE OF THE WOODS. BUT THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO SWEAR THAT THEY CAN HEAR SONG COMING FROM THE SWAMP AND A MAN'S VOICE TAKING PART IN THE CHORUS! HACKMAN'S SWAN SONG, NO DOUBT... BUT HE ASKED FOR IT! NO? HEH-HEH-HEH!
B. LITHUS
THE END.

When You Have To Defend Yourself Do What The EXPERTS Do!

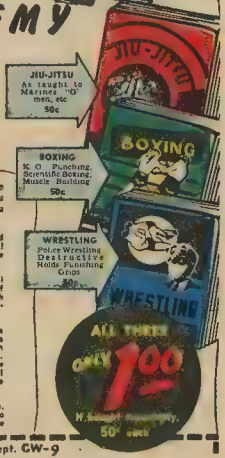
USE THEIR 3-POWER SYSTEM



OVERCOME ANY ENEMY

No matter how big he is or how small you are!

Now! Discover from experts this quick way to defend yourself — anywhere — anytime!



HERE'S every science of self-defense and lethal attack, wrapped up into one triple-action package. This new fast-moving 3-power system will make you tough to conquer, or it doesn't cost you a cent. You don't need muscles! You don't have to be big! You just have to know how!

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Act Now, Be Prepared!

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Never again cringe or shy away from a bully. Imagine the wonderful thrill of confidence to know that nobody can push you around. Think of the respect others will have for you, the safety they'll feel being with you, when they find out what a rough and ready scrapping, deadly-efficient he-man you can be.

You learn quickly and easily through our amazing new "slow-motion picture" method. You learn every stance, every hold, every grip as portrayed by our experts. It's just like getting personal instruction in your own home. But you don't pay the price of personal instruction. The experts who prepared these instructions want everyone to know how to defend himself. They want to make a "big man" of every small one. So the price was made so low that everyone could afford to have these instructions. Yes, you can't afford to be without them.

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Make us prove our claims. Send no money, unless you prefer. When the postman delivers your package, deposit only $1.00 plus postage and C.O.D. charges. You must be completely convinced after five days, or return the books and your money will be refunded. Don't wait until trouble strikes: Prepare NOW.

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(If you check two books, we will send you the third without additional charge)

☐ Enclosed find $_____ Please send the books all charges prepaid.

☐ Send C.O.D. I will pay on delivery, plus postage and C.O.D. charges. (No C.O.D. for less than $1.00).

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ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____

It is understood that if I am not satisfied I can return the books within 5 days for immediate refund of full purchase price

No C.O.D. to APO, FPO, or outside U.S.A.

WHAT'S IN A NAME

JOHN LANG clutched the brown envelope close to him as he walked toward the bank. This was the key to his future. The $50,000 in brand new green bills. No longer would he have to take guff from his boss or from Lanni Rote, his gold digging girl friend. They both treated him like dirt . . . and just because he was nothing but a messenger for the United Bonding Company. Sure, they trusted him with their money, who wouldn't? John Lang was afraid of his own shadow . . . he wouldn't hurt a fly.

But the worm had changed! John had laid his plans well. To take the $50,000 that was meant to be the payroll for the Manhattan Fixture Company and deposit it under an assumed name in his own account. Then give himself up and let them guess where the money was. Sure, they'd send him away for five years, but what was that?. A man could wait a lifetime for cash like fifty grand!

He walked into the bank and quickly went to an idle cashier. No sense in wasting time.

"I'd like to deposit this." He shoved the bundle of green at the bored teller.

"Under what name?"

He had forgotten about that. It would be easy for them to check up on his name. Better pick an alias. But one that he couldn't forget over five years. Hmmm, let's see . . .

"Make it Napoleon Bonapart, III."

The teller shrugged. These rich guys are always doing something nutty. It didn't make any difference to him.

It worked. Even better than he had planned. Instead of sending him to prison he was going to an institute for the unbalanced. The lawyer the state had assigned had seen to that. Smart young kid just out of law school had pulled all the stops. It would be easier that way . . . he had heard about those jails, it wouldn't be a picnic with those criminals. After all, he really wasn't a criminal . . . he was just getting even for all the abuse he had to take all these years.

John Lang sat in the barren white room and grinned to himself. This was going to be a cinch. It would be easy sitting out the time here. Why, he might even be able to get off early. Especially since he wasn't classified as "dangerous". Why, he had the run of the place . . . everybody trusted him. Yup, this was going to be a real good deal!

The young State Attorney sat across from Lang in the reception room. It had been six months since he had been committed and he was getting impatient. It was okay in the asylum . . . if you liked nuts. But it wasn't the place for a normal man like John Lang.

"Look, Mr. Morse, you did me a real turn by getting me committed here and I want to pay you off. But the only way I can do that is to get out. And you gotta fix it for me. What do you say?"

"I'd like to help you, Lang, but I'm afraid that's not the answer. You see, if you get out of here too soon the authorities will only have you put right back in jail. That's the law!"

"Oh, gee and I thought everything was gonna be okay."

"One more thing, Lang. I overheard the medics talking out in the hall before I came in. They were talking about you. Seem to think you're as sane as I am. They're gonna open up your case again and have a reinvestigation. So if I were you I'd start acting up . . . wouldn't want anything to happen to your

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plans. You'd better stay here for another year and a half before applying for a discharge . . . no sense in arousing any suspicions."

"Thanks, Mr. Morse, I'll take your advice. And don't worry about a thing. I'm gonna take care of you as soon as I get out of this rat-trap."

Back in his room John Lang thought over the lawyer's advice. So they were getting suspicious, were they. Well he'd show them how crazy he really was . . . he'd put on an act that would knock their eyes out.

The attendant came into the room with the bucket of paint and the window shade. Lang's eyes lit up crazily when he saw the material. He got off the bed on which he was laying and took the paint brush from the skeptical attendant. He caressed the soft hair like a man would caress a woman's hair.

"What do you want this stuff for, Lang? Up to now all you've done around here is read the paper."

"Well, it's the bad air you have in this room that makes me so lazy. So you know what I'm gonna do?"

The attendant played along. "No, what are you gonna do?"

"I'm gonna take this paint and paint another window on that wall over there. That way I'll have cross-ventilation in the room. And would you mind bringing me some curtains tomorrow? I want it to be real home-like."

The attendant stared in disbelief at the vacant wall and then back to the dazed look on Lang's face. He shrugged, put the bucket of paint down, and walked out of the room.

Out in the corridor he met another attendant carrying a set of radio headsets.

"I always knew that Lang was off his rocker, Charley. He had me get him a bucket of paint so he could make another window in his room. How do you like that?"

"Think that's bad? He wants these headsets because he claims he can hear music coming from the radiator. Needs these to get the station in clearer!"

Lang's scheme worked, for the doctors gave him another exam and pronounced him insane. But he was smart enough to have them put down "Temporarily" on his records . . . yes sir, John Lang thought of everything.

The months passed quickly and finally the day came when John Lang was given his freedom. He got himself a room in a hotel and then headed downtown toward the bank. The bank that had kept his $50,000 for him while he was "on vacation". But John Lang didn't notice the two men who were trailing him from the time he left the asylum . . . two men who hadn't the faintest idea of where he was going or what he was doing.

* * *

The crowd assembled quickly as the men brought the struggling figure of John Lang out of the bank. With experienced hands they laced him into a straight-jacket. He twisted and squirmed, but he had no choice but to go where the men were taking him . . . to a car parked by the curb.

"But I tell you you're making a mistake! There's nothing wrong with me! I'm perfectly normal!"

"Sure, sure, John. We know . . . don't worry though, everything's gonna be okay."

"Better take it easy, John . . . we're taking you back to the asylum. You'll be better off there."

The crowd broke up as the car pulled away from the curb. The bank teller stood on the steps talking to the guard as they watched the tail-lights fade off in the distance.

"Funny how it happened. These fellas signalled to me over his shoulder that he was off his rocker, and what does he do, but come up and ask me for $50,000 deposited under the name of *Napoleon Bonapart III!*"

"Yeah, and I was just reading an article about how many people are walking the streets that ought to be in the nut house!"

The bank doors closed behind the two men as they shrugged their shoulders and went back to work.

the MAN WHO BEAT THE CHAIR!

THEY CALLED IT AN IDLE BOAST WHEN **WARREN "FINGERS" DELONG** VOWED THAT HE'D NEVER GO TO THE CHAIR... YET, A MONTH LATER, A NATION-WIDE MAN-HUNT WAS ON FOR THE TRIGGER-HAPPY KILLER! ROAD-BLOCKS FAILED AND POSSES RETURNED EMPTY-HANDED... BUT **DEATH** WAS ALWAYS NEAR, EVEN WHEN THE POLICE WERE FAR AWAY!

I BEAT THE CHAIR ***ONCE***... I'LL DO IT ***AGAIN!*** COME ON, COPPERS... ***COME AND GET ME!***

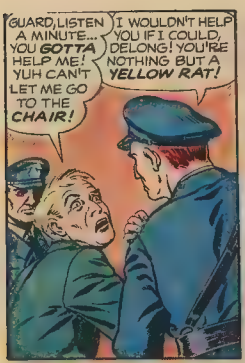
THIS ISN'T THE ***LAW,*** FINGERS! YOU SQUEALED ***FOR THE LAST TIME!***

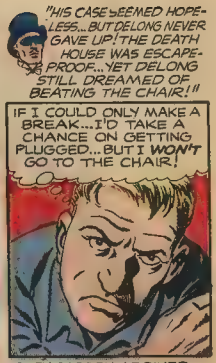
"**WARREN DELONG** WAS SENTENCED ON JUNE 14, 1946 FOR THE COLD-BLOODED MURDER OF AN UN-ARMED MAN!"

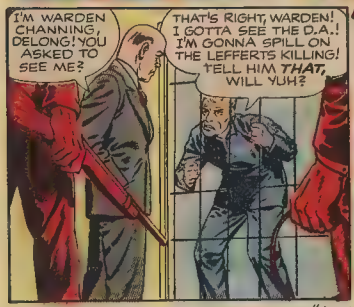
YOU HAVE BEEN FOUND GUILTY OF MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE, DELONG! ACCORDING TO THE LAWS OF THIS STATE, YOU WILL DIE IN THE ELECTRIC CHAIR NOT LATER THAN MIDNIGHT OF AUGUST FIFTH OF THIS YEAR!

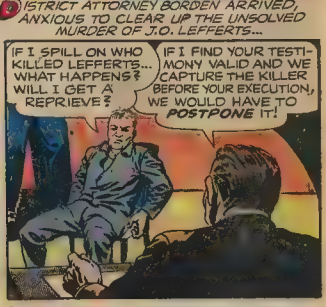
NOT THE CHAIR, JUDGE... ***NOT THE CHAIR!*** PLEASE... I CAN'T TAKE THE CHAIR!

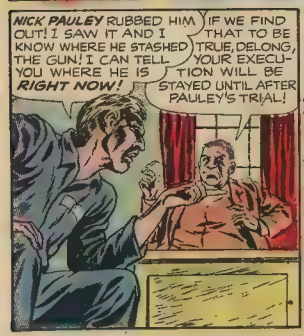
COME ON, TOUGH GUY... YOU SHOUD'VE THOUGHT OF THIS WHEN YOU KILLED THAT GUY IN THE GAS STATION!



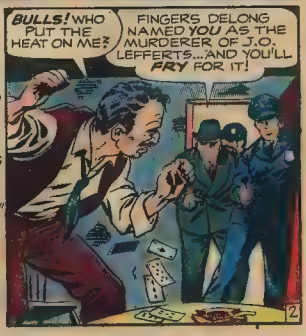








"ACTING ON FINGERS DELONG'S TIP, NICK PAULEY WAS CAPTURED ON AUGUST 2, 1946, JUST IN TIME TO SAVE DELONG FROM THE DEATH HE SO RICHLY DESERVED."



"THE TRIAL OF NICK PAULEY WAS SET FOR SEPTEMBER 12, 1946, THE STAR WITNESS FOR THE PROSECUTION WAS WARREN DELONG, ALREADY LIVING ON BORROWED TIME WHEN THE TRIAL BEGAN!"

NICK PAULEY SHOT LEFFERTS! I SAW HIM DO IT!

WHAT A PAL YOU TURNED OUT TO BE, FINGERS! I'LL GET YUH FOR THIS!

WITH DELONG'S TESTIMONY THE STATE WILL SHOW BEYOND A DOUBT THAT PAULEY IS GUILTY OF FIRST-DEGREE MURDER!

THERE THEY ARE! THE BOYS CAME THROUGH! THIS IS THE REASON I SQUEALED ON PAULEY!

FINGERS DELONG WAITED HIS CHANCE... AND IT CAME WHEN THE COURT RECESSED FOR LUNCH...

DON'T MOVE, COPPER! GRAB HIS GUN FINGERS, AND LET'S GET OUTA HERE!

BLAST ANYBODY WHO GETS IN THE WAY! LET'S GO!

IN THE MOST DARING ESCAPE IN RECENT CRIMINAL HISTORY, WARREN DELONG SHOT HIS WAY TO FREEDOM!

I TOLD YUH I'D BEAT THE CHAIR!

COME ON, FINGERS... LET'S ROLL!

WELL, WE MADE IT! WHAT'S THE MATTER, SAL, YUH NERVOUS?

IF I WAS NERVOUS, WOULD I BE HERE? I WAS JUST WONDERIN' ABOUT NICK PAULEY... I THOUGHT YUH WERE A FRIEND OF HIS!

NEVER MIND PAULEY! I'LL TEACH YUH TUH CRITICIZE WHAT I DO!

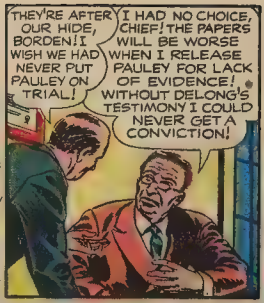
EASY, FINGERS! IF I KNEW YUH WERE GONNA RAT ON NICK, I WOULDN'T HAVE HELPED SPRING YUH!

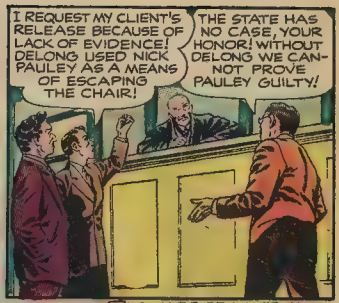
"IT STARTED THEN, BUT DELONG FAILED TO SEE IT! THE UNDERWORLD HAD A CODE OF ITS OWN..."

I OJGHTA GUN YUH, FINGERS, BUT YUH'LL GET IT SOONER OR LATER! I HOPE YUH GET THE CHAIR AFTER ALL!

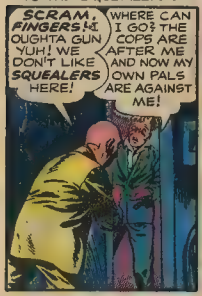
IT WAS ME OR PAULEY, WASN'T IT? WHAT IF I DID SQUEAL? FINGERS DELONG COMES FIRST!

"THE MAN-HUNT WAS ON... WITH THE PRESS WRITING SCATHING ARTICLES ON THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY AND THE POLICE WHO HAD LET A KILLER LOOSE..."



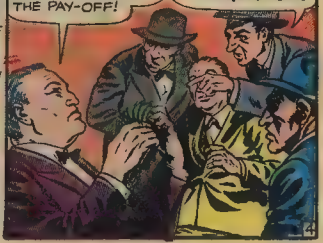


MEANWHILE, FINGERS DELONG WAS FINDING HIS FREEDOM A DOUBTFUL LUXURY! THE USUAL HIDEOUTS OF CRIMINALS WERE CLOSED TO THE SQUEALER...

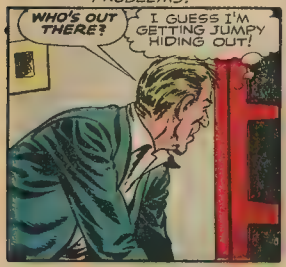


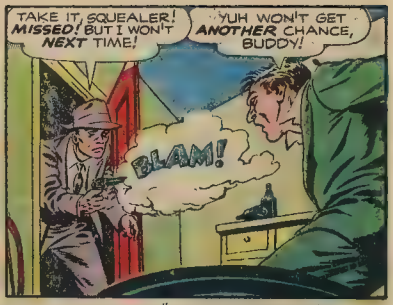
THE HARRIED KILLER FOUND SAFETY NOWHERE... THE POLICE WERE RELENTLESS... BUT IT WAS THE UNDERWORLD FINGERS FEARED THE MOST! TWO DAYS LATER, IN A STOLEN CAR...

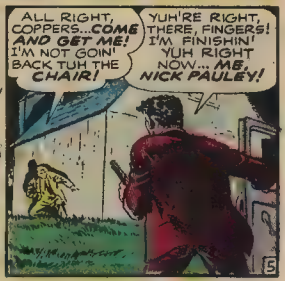
"DELONG WAS RIGHT! THE ENTIRE UNDERWORLD IN THE MIDDLE WEST WAS ON HIS TRAIL!"



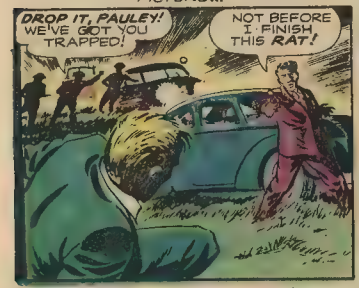
FINGERS DELONG FOUND THAT THE POLICE WERE THE LEAST OF HIS PROBLEMS!



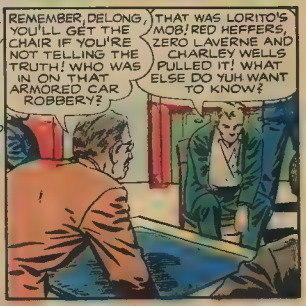




GUNS ROARED BUT BEFORE THEY COULD ROAR AGAIN THE POLICE ENTERED THE PICTURE...



"BUT WARREN DELONG DIDN'T GET THE CHAIR! HIS EAGERNESS TO TALK RESULTED IN A ROUND-UP OF CRIMINALS UNPARALLELED IN THE HISTORY OF CRIME!"



DISTRICT ATTORNEY BORDEN WAS RIGHT...DELONG LIVED A LIFE OF CONSTANT ABUSE AND FEAR!

"YES, WARREN DELONG HAD HIS LIFE...BUT WAS IT WORTH IT? WHAT WILL BE THE END OF THE MAN WHO BEAT THE CHAIR?"

New Figure Mold Hide-A-Waist

HIDE-A-WAIST Back View

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17 Sensational Features

Streamline Your Waist - Hide Bulges

Say "good-bye" to that unbecoming tummy bulge and clumsy waistline . . . AND . . . instead enjoy what you need most for your figure with HIDE-A-WAIST. Wear it and presto-chango—like magic you have graceful alluring curves The unwanted bulge is evenly and comfortably banished. There are 17 sectional features that effect flattering curves. Keeps you smoothly shapely no matter what angle . . . sit, bend, stand or walk with comfortable, even grace. The secret of glamorous, stylish, women is to look graceful and alluring with a thinned waist line.

Adjustable to TAILOR MADE FIT

The adjustable features of HIDE-A-WAIST allow you to get the custom fit perfection, comfort and attractiveness of a tailor fit. It's practically made to order for your figure. Gives you poise and posture. The 17 sections automatically mold your figure. You get the support you need with unbelievable comfort. You'll delight with what it does for you. The specially designed concave effect is a feature of note because it permits HIDE-A-WAIST to adapt itself to your own diaphragm. You've never seen anything like it. You've never enjoyed so much freedom, comfort and style in anything else you've worn. The four extra-length detachable garters complete HIDE-A-WAIST Comfortable too without garters

BEAUTIFUL IN YOUR HAND EXQUISITE ON YOUR FORM

You'll marvel at the value and beauty when you see your new HIDE-A-WAIST . . . BUT . . . when you put it on and see your new self, you'll be the happiest girl in the world. You'll look as thin and graceful as a sixteen-year-old nymph. Ladies, to look smart—be smart and order your HIDE-A-WAIST now. It's new and not available in stores. Order direct without risk You must be 100% delighted or we refund your money. Comes in sizes up to 40. The introductory price is indeed a bargain. Sizes up to 34 only $2.98, plus postage. Sizes 36 and over One Dollar extra. 150c extra for the four extra-length detachable adjustable garter

NOTE Fashion has emphasized the streamlined waist. Be up to the minute when you parade your pretty self . . . order your HIDE-A-WAIST now! Send direct to us for your HIDE-A-WAIST today. Wear it 10 days FREE and, if not delighted, return for refund. Act at once while this introductory offer is open Just fill in coupon and drop it in the mail We ship COD plus postage. But hurry coupon.

You will look charmingly chic in your new Hide-A-Waist. Your stylish waistline will add new glamour to your favorite frock . . . you will walk with an "air" of satisfaction and poise

ONLY

$2.98

2 for $5.85

10 DAY TRIAL FREE

S. J. Wegman Co., Dept. H-673
836 Broadway, New York 3, N. Y.

Rush my new HIDE-A-WAIST three-in-one at once. If I am not thrillingly satisfied I will return it after 10-day FREE trial for prompt refund of full purchase price.

Size _____ (waist size in inches).

Also send _____ sets of extra-length detachable and adjustable garters at only 50c for set of four.

☐ Send C.O.D. I will pay postman on delivery plus few cents postage.

☐ I enclose payment. The S. J. Wegman Co. will pay postage.

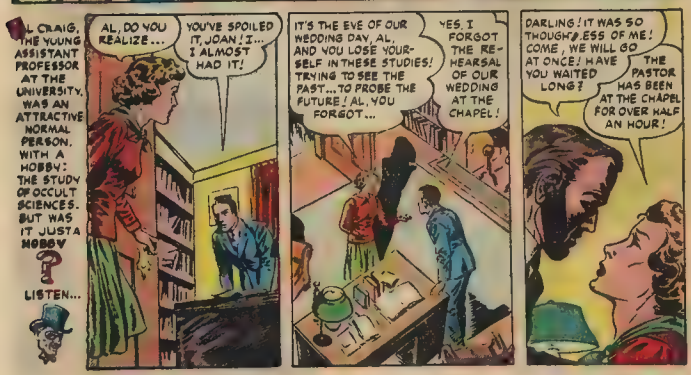
NAME _____

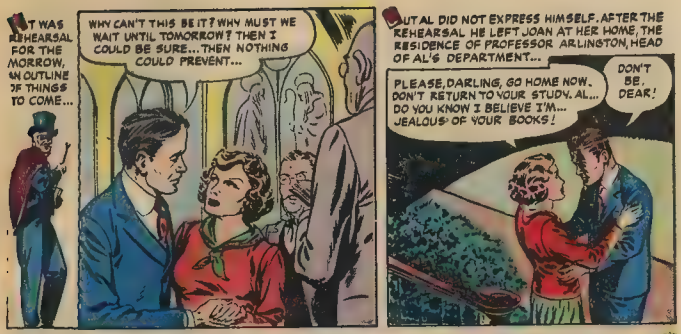
ADDRESS _____

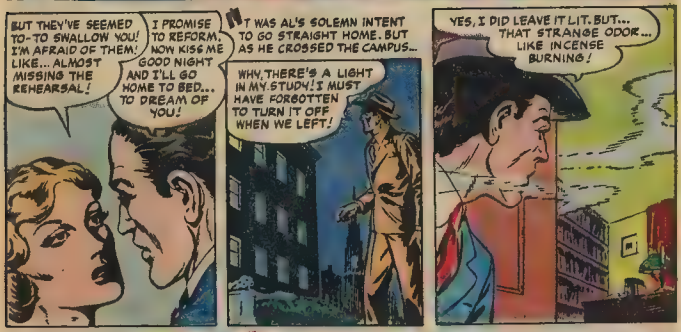
MAIL COUPON NOW

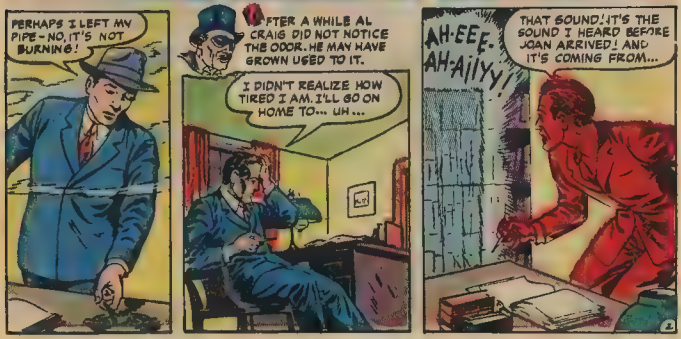
AL CRAIG LOOKED UP STARTLED IN HIS STUDY AND FROWNED AT JOAN ARLINGTON ENTERING... BREAKING THE SPELL. JOAN PURSED HER LIPS, HOLDING HER TEARS IN CHECK. THIS WAS NO TIME TO CAUSE A SCENE! HEH-HEH! IF SHE ONLY HAD! ON THIS...

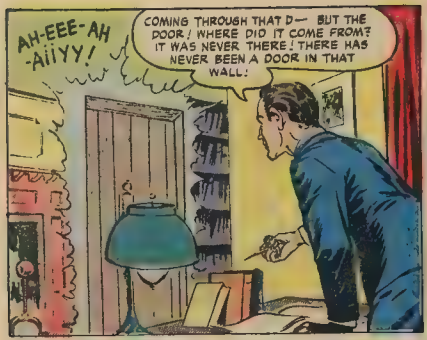
The WEDDING EVE!




IT WAS REHEARSAL FOR THE MORROW, AN OUTLINE OF THINGS TO COME...
WHY CAN'T THIS BE IT? WHY MUST WE WAIT UNTIL TOMORROW? THEN I COULD BE SURE... THEN NOTHING COULD PREVENT...
BUT AL DID NOT EXPRESS HIMSELF. AFTER THE REHEARSAL HE LEFT JOAN AT HER HOME, THE RESIDENCE OF PROFESSOR ARLINGTON, HEAD OF AL'S DEPARTMENT...
PLEASE, DARLING, GO HOME NOW. DON'T RETURN TO YOUR STUDY. AL... DO YOU KNOW I BELIEVE I'M... JEALOUS OF YOUR BOOKS!
DON'T BE, DEAR!


BUT THEY'VE SEEMED TO-TO SWALLOW YOU! I'M AFRAID OF THEM! LIKE... ALMOST MISSING THE REHEARSAL!
I PROMISE TO REFORM. NOW KISS ME GOOD NIGHT AND I'LL GO HOME TO BED... TO DREAM OF YOU!
IT WAS AL'S SOLEMN INTENT TO GO STRAIGHT HOME. BUT AS HE CROSSED THE CAMPUS...
WHY, THERE'S A LIGHT IN MY STUDY! I MUST HAVE FORGOTTEN TO TURN IT OFF WHEN WE LEFT!
YES, I DID LEAVE IT LIT. BUT... THAT STRANGE ODOR... LIKE INCENSE BURNING!

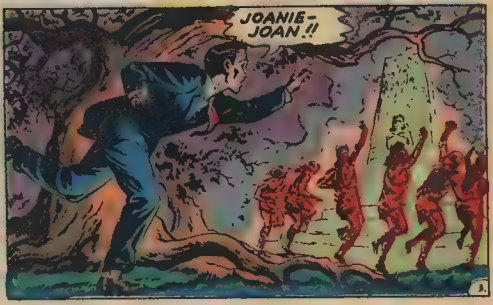

PERHAPS I LEFT MY PIPE - NO, IT'S NOT BURNING!
AFTER A WHILE AL CRAIG DID NOT NOTICE THE ODOR. HE MAY HAVE GROWN USED TO IT.
I DIDN'T REALIZE HOW TIRED I AM. I'LL GO ON HOME TO... UH...
AH-EEE-AH-AIIYY!
THAT SOUND! IT'S THE SOUND I HEARD BEFORE JOAN ARRIVED! AND IT'S COMING FROM...

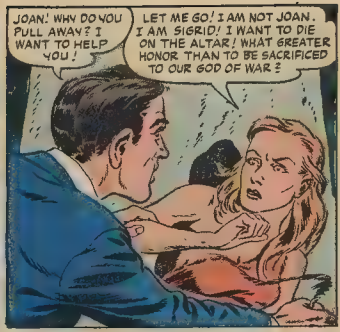

AH-EEE-AH -AiiYY!
COMING THROUGH THAT D— BUT THE DOOR! WHERE DID IT COME FROM? IT WAS NEVER THERE! THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A DOOR IN THAT WALL!

THE DOOR CLOSED AND THEN THERE WAS NO DOOR. ONLY A GREAT FOREST OF OAKS AND THE CHANT IN THE DISTANCE..
IT'S AS IF I KNEW THIS SCENE, AS IF I HAD BEEN HERE ONCE BEFORE, AS IF I KNEW THE WORDS COMING TO ME ...
AH-EE-AH.

YES, THERE IT IS! THE DRUIDICAL SACRIFICE! THE CEREMONIAL CHANT! BUT .....
AH-EEE-AH...

NO, NO!


JOANIE-JOAN!!



IN HIS FRENZY TO FREE JOAN, AL CRAIG SCARCELY REALIZED THAT THOUGH HE WAS IN THE MIDST OF A STRANGE CIVILIZATION, THEIR LANGUAGE WAS UNDERSTANDABLE TO HIM - WHEN GARTHIM, CHIEF OF THE WARRIORS, SPRANG FORWARD...

AL CRAIG WAS NOT A FIGHTING MAN. HE WAS, BY NATURE, A MAN OF MEDITATION AND REFLECTION. A QUIET MAN; WHO LOVED HIS PIPE - A COMFORT TO HIM IN TIMES OF STRESS...

OR TWO DAYS THE BATTLE RAGED...

I'VE GOT TO GET HER OUT OF HERE SOME WAY! GOT TO GET HER... HOME!

ND FROM A NEARBY HILLTOP...

JOAN DEAR, I'M GOING TO TAKE YOU WITH ME! THE BATTLE WILL COME OUT ALL RIGHT!

O HURTH, GOD OF FIRE, GOD OF WAR, WHERE YOU GO I WILL FOLLOW!

NOW, IF I CAN ONLY FIND THAT DOOR! WAIT! I THINK I SEE IT!

DDENLY, A GREAT CRY AROSE ON THE BATTLEFIELD...

HURTH HAS FORSAKEN US! WE ARE DOOMED! RUN FOR THE FOREST!

NO JUST AS AL HAD ALMOST REACHED THE DOOR THROUGH WHICH HE HAD COME...

THERE HE IS! THE FALSE GOD! HE IS NOT HURTH, HE IS A FALSE GOD!

A FALSE GOD?

IF I CAN ONLY... WHY DOESN'T THIS DOOR OPEN?!

LET ME GO! LET ME GO AS SACRIFICE TO THE REAL HURTH!!

MADE IT... UH.. NO! JOAN !!

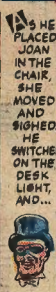
AL CRAIG'S BRAIN POUNDED, HIS BODY ACHED. AND HIS VOICE CALLED OUT IN ANGUISH...

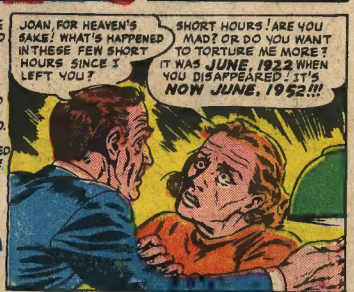
JOAN! JOAN! I'VE LOST HER FOREVER! JOAN! OH, JOAN!

A DREAM! THANK HEAVENS! SO REAL - I COULD SWEAR IT REALLY... UH...

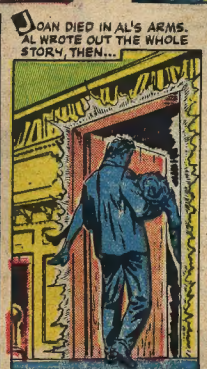
IT CAN'T BE... IT CAN'T BE...
EEEEEEE!

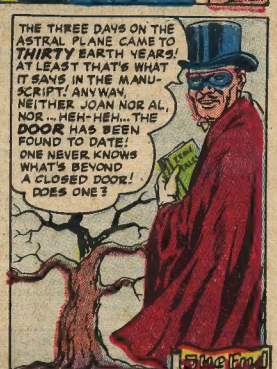
JOAN! WHAT IS IT? -SHE'S FAINTED!


AS HE PLACED JOAN IN THE CHAIR, SHE MOVED AND SIGHED. HE SWITCHED ON THE DESK LIGHT, AND...


JOAN, FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE! WHAT'S HAPPENED IN THESE FEW SHORT HOURS SINCE I LEFT YOU?
SHORT HOURS! ARE YOU MAD? OR DO YOU WANT TO TORTURE ME MORE? IT WAS JUNE, 1922 WHEN YOU DISAPPEARED! IT'S NOW JUNE, 1952!!!

YOU- OH!
NO! NO! JOAN!


JOAN DIED IN AL'S ARMS. AL WROTE OUT THE WHOLE STORY, THEN...


THE THREE DAYS ON THE ASTRAL PLANE CAME TO THIRTY EARTH YEARS! AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT IT SAYS, IN THE MANUSCRIPT! ANYWAY, NEITHER JOAN NOR AL, NOR... HEH-HEH... THE DOOR HAS BEEN FOUND TO DATE! ONE NEVER KNOWS WHAT'S BEYOND A CLOSED DOOR! DOES ONE?
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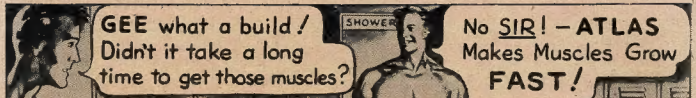

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LET ME START SHOWING RESULTS FOR YOU

"My arms increased 1½" chest 2½", forearm ¼"."—C.S., W.Va.

"Have put 3½" on chest (normal) and 2½" expanded."—F.S., N.Y.

"Am sending snapshot showing wonderful progress."—W. G., N. J.

"When I started, weighed only 141. Now 170."—T. K., N. Y.

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I can broaden your shoulders, strengthen your back, develop your whole muscular system INSIDE and OUTSIDE! I can add inches to your chest, give you a vise-like grip, make those legs of yours like and powerful. I can shoot new strength into your old backbone, exercise those inner organs; help you cram your body so full of pep, vigor and red-blooded vitality that you won't feel there's even "standing room" left for weakness and that lazy feeling! Before I get through with you I'll have your whole frame "measured" to a nice, new beautiful suit of muscle!

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"Dynamic Tension!" That's the ticket! The identical natural method that I myself developed to change my body from the scrawny, skinny-chested weakling I was at 17 to my present super-man physique! Thousands of other fellows are becoming marvelous physical specimens—**my way.** I give you **no gadgets or contraptions to fool with.** When you have learned to develop your strength through "Dynamic Tension" you can laugh at **artificial** muscle makers. You simply utilize the DORMANT muscle-power in your own God-given body—watch it increase and multiply double-quick into real solid, LIVE MUSCLE. And you'll be using the method which many great athletes use for keeping in condition—prize fighters, wrestlers, baseball and football players, etc.

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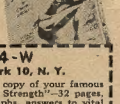

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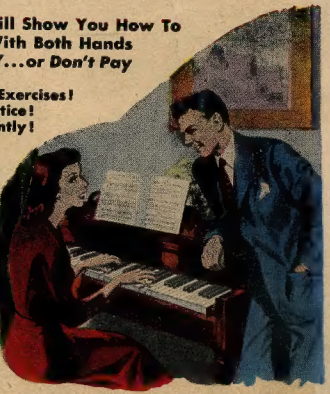

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